

transformed, or a spurious imitation by (most probably) a Hamburg dealer.

The beautiful designs of the engraver in the 'superb' city having been rejected, Messrs. Delarue received instructions to prepare a series of stamps for the Italian government, which we are informed will come into circulation at the new year. The specimens, eight in number, lie before us, and they are *not* an improvement on those refused: but that could scarcely be anticipated—the former so nearly reaching perfection. They are, nevertheless, vastly superior in beauty of design and carefulness of engraving to most of the stamps in circulation. The one centesimo bears a large figure, on which the value is repeated in letters,—*Poste* above, *Italiane* below; a Greek border; the intermediate space filled up with pattern; colour, sea-green on white. The other seven are also printed in colour on white. The head of Victor Emanuel in an oval, with *Poste Italiane* above, and the value below; the spandrels ornamented with devices different in each stamp. The values and colours are: 5 centesimi, greenish slate; 10 c., orange; 15 c., blue; 30 c., brown; 40 c., carmine; 60 c., mauve; and 2 lire, scarlet.

There is a new threepenny Jamaica issue, green; and a threepenny vermillion, with a five-shilling bright mauve, now come from the Mauritius. The three-cornered Capes will be soon superseded by square stamps; the shilling and sixpenny already appearing in that shape.

We can expect to announce but seldom so many additions to the stamp-collectors' albums. Hong Kong favours us with three new values, to wit: 4 cents, bluish green; 6 c., mauve; and 30 c., vermillion. The device is similar to the former issue, but the paper bears a crown as water mark.

The 20 c., red, of the latest issue of the New Granada—or rather, United States of Columbia—stamps should be added to the English catalogues. It belongs to the series having nine stars on a white ground.

An engraving of the latest newspaper stamp for Austria is subjoined.



REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Timbres-poste d'Amérique. Principaux Timbres-poste d'Europe. Paris : De Torbéchet, Allain et Cie.

THESE are *cartes* containing photographs of the American and principal European postage stamps respectively. They are the size of *cartes de visite*, and would form appropriate frontispieces in collections of the photographs of postal amateurs, which many collectors now make a point of having. On the former card, one hundred and forty of the principal stamps of North and South America are accurately portrayed; and on the latter, one hundred and forty-seven of the individuals of most of the European countries, which are, moreover, numbered, and their names given beneath. Both cards are elegant specimens of the skill of the photographer and the capabilities of photography.

A New and Revised Descriptive Price Catalogue of British, Colonial, and Foreign Postage Stamps. Bath : Stafford Smith and Smith.

THIS catalogue really corresponds with its designation. It is priced, and contains, with few exceptions, only such specimens mentioned as the publishers actually have, all marked at fair selling prices, used and unused; so that parties forwarding stamps or a post-office order can be certified of obtaining such individuals as they require, in lieu of the stereotyped reply of some of the continental catalogue compilers, 'We are sorry we have not the stamps you require in stock at present.' For the convenience of small dealers, also, the more common and lower values of many foreign stamps are priced by the dozen, both used and unused.

The publication is printed on good paper, in an exceedingly legible type, and contains a supplement of from fifty to sixty beautifully-executed engravings, printed on toned paper.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN 'CONVICT' STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—In the October number of the *Stamp Collector's Magazine*, I see you refer to the hole pierced in the stamp ← (260)

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of Western Australia. I beg to offer some explanation respecting them, showing the way by which they are pierced without injuring the letter. I have just received some of these stamps from a lady having friends in Western Australia, and who, in the letter enclosing them, informed her that they are *first* pierced, and then supplied to the convict establishment. By this means a convict's letter may, if necessary, be traced. I consider these stamps of greater value, being more rare; and many stamp collectors of my acquaintance acknowledge them as another variety.

Brighton.

Yours truly,
S. WELFARE.

SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Knowing that you are always willing to impart information through the columns of your highly-prized magazine, I take the liberty of making the following observations.

In the Schleswig-Holstein stamps I have noticed something which will enable collectors to distinguish the genuine from forged specimens. In the *bona fide* stamps there is a thread of silk (blue in the 1 skilling, and rose in the 2 skilling) which runs in the paper from top to bottom.

As there appears to be much discussion respecting the *Colombo* specimens, I may remark that I am in the habit of receiving New Zealand stamps every mail, and those that I got per the *Colombo* were altered in colour, as follows:—The penny vermilion to a dirty black: the twopenny blue to a very dark blue, and the shilling green to nearly black.

Glasgow.

Yours respectfully,
R. P. HARLEY.

TRINIDAD WOOD-BLOCK STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—I was very much surprised to hear that two or three individuals, who assume to be authorities in all matters appertaining to stamps (though *why* I am at a loss to know), have had the presumption and ignorance to class the Trinidad 'wood-blocks,' which you had from me, as forgeries. As I told you before, I again most positively state, that I had them *direct* from W. Eversley, Esq., the postmaster of Trinidad; and that I bought up all that could be found. Surely, a gentleman in such a position would not attempt to impose *forges* upon me; and I think you will agree with me, that he is a far more reliable authority, with regard to these particular stamps, than any of the *wiseacres* who have so rashly condemned them. In conclusion, permit me to state, that I consider myself quite competent to detect any forged stamps; and that my experience (whether length of time or extent of business be taken into consideration) is *second to none* at home or abroad.

Hoping the preceding remarks will convince you, and the readers of your magazine, of the *genuineness* of the above-named stamps,

I am, dear sir,
Yours very truly,
OMEGA.

Everton, Liverpool.

THE NEW ITALIAN STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—'Il Ministro dei Lavori pubblici, Signor

L. F. Menabrea,' has confirmed the design of the new Italian stamps, of which I have been favoured with an inspection. They will be as follows:—

FOR NEWSPAPERS.

Inscription [POSTE ITALIANE], figure indicating value and enclosing denomination and value, in rectangular frame enclosing etruscan pattern. Col. imp.; rect., value in words.

1 centesimo slate-green.

FOR LETTERS.

Same inscription, head of King Victor Emanuel to left in oval, contained in rectangular frame, spandrels differing in pattern, inscription and value in white letters. Col. imp.; rect.

5 (cinque) centesimi dark green.

10 (dieci) c. red-brown.

15 (quindici) c. blue.

30 (trenta) c. chocolate.

40 (quaranta) c. rose.

60 (sessanta) c. lilac.

Same device, flowers in each spandril, inscription and value in coloured letters. Col. imp.; rect.

2 (due) lire scarlet.

It will thus be seen that the 20 and 80 centesimi and 3 lire labels are no longer to be used, and that three new stamps (30 and 60 centesimi and 2 lire) will be substituted.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,
MOUNT BROWN.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. H. O., Nottingham.—The later issue of the penny Queensland is scarlet; the earlier, carmine.—The 20 c. and 40 c. French you speak of are fancy stamps, used for pricing packets of *bonbons*.—We may take this opportunity of cautioning collectors against an excellent imitation of the Dutch stamps in violet, employed for a similar purpose. It will most probably be offered for sale as a new edition or an essay.

R. MELDRUM, Glasgow.—We received by the last mail from Reunion, a communication from a correspondent, to the effect that the postage stamps enclosed (French colonies) are the only ones in present circulation; and that the old Bourbon stamps have been long disused, and are now unattainable.—We have no doubt there were two issues of the old tenpenny English, viz., with and without threads, the former on white, the latter on buff paper; but no envelope of that value, till the present substitute.

T. W., Keymer, Hurstpierpoint.—Like yourself, we have a black twopenny English in our collection, but cannot obtain satisfactory proof of its authenticity.

L. M., St. Neot's.—We have never met with the 10 c. yellow, of the 1854 issue of Switzerland; consequently, cannot speak as to its shade of colour. Why do you not ask the first-rate authority on postage stamps residing in your own town?—There are no fewer than twenty of the Krantz Hamonia emissions, in bronze or silver on various colours. It is strange that we cannot obtain reliable information on the Hamburg locals.—We have never seen such a twopenny New South Wales as you describe, but cannot judge of its genuineness without inspection.—The envelope stamps of Hanover, Saxony, and Baden frequently arrive pen-cancelled; and occasionally also the adhesives of Canada.

I. S.—We cannot appraise stamps. As we have before remarked, they are worth what they will fetch.—We believe a red $\frac{1}{2}$ groschen of Hanover must be a forgery.—